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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,132	12/18/2000	Jerry Crawford	NC13989	4832

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,132

Applicant(s)

CRAWFORD ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 and 42-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 and 42-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 12/27/04.
2. Claims 1-40 and 42-70 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 29 and 39 are independent claims. In Amendment, independent claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 29, and 39 are amended, and claims 55-70 are new claims. This action is made non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 68 is depending on itself. For examination purpose, it is considered to be dependent upon claim 67. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-26, 28-40, and 42-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Berger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,693 B1).

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As to claims 1 and 14, Berger teaches a component Customization and Personalization System (CCPS) comprising:

a computer site comprising an interface, said

computer site further comprising a set of predetermined images and a graphics server providing graphics tools for enabling a modification of said predetermined designs and images, and for further enabling the creation of new images (graphical images stored in the database can be customized/designed by using the editing graphic design software such as PhotoShop, e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8);

a user station coupled to said computer site (from the user computer connects to the distributor via the Internet when submitting/customizing the order/image, fig. 1), said user station comprising:

(a) a user interface for enabling a user to access said graphics server for defining a desired design to be placed on a consumer product (e.g., col. 2 lines 24-28, col. 3 lines 12-30, and figs. 4-5); and

(b) a manufacturing subsystem (the appropriate printer will print the desired image on the 3-D physical object, e.g., col. 7 lines 57-67) for receiving data descriptive of said desired image, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at least one three-dimensional component of said consumer product to have said desired image placed on it as a decorative element (e.g., col. 7 lines 10-67, and figs. 4, 5, 7 & 9). (The three dimensional article which is being imprinted with an graphical or designed image is immaterial, the reference to Berger et al. clearly shows imprinting user selected images

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on any of a number of three dimensional articles. It would have been inherent that any three-dimensional item could have had designed graphics or designs imprinted upon them. Printing company logos or trade names on components such as T-shirt, hats, luggage, housing devices, calculator, telephones has been used for advertising for many years).

As to claims 2 and 15, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein said central site further comprises an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction with the user in order to make an accounting for the manufactured at least one three-dimensional component (financial arrangements, e.g., col. 8 lines 5-20).

As to claims 3 and 17, Berger teaches wherein said central site further comprises means for enabling the user to include the desired image into said set of predetermined images (e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8).

As to claim 4, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the user to access said graphics server for the purpose of selecting one of said predetermined images as a desired image (e.g., figs. 4, 5, & 8).

As to claims 5 and 19, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the user to access said graphics server for the purpose of creating said desired design by modifying at least one of said predetermined designs and images (graphical images stored in the database can be customized/designed by using the editing graphic design software such as PhotoShop, e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8).

As to claims 6-9, 16, 18, 20, 21-23, and 35-37, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the user to access said graphics server for the purpose of

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creating said desired design by inputting the new design or a new image (the user uses PhotoShop editing images, e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8).

As to claims 10 and 24, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein said at least one user station comprises a point-of-sale (POS) terminal (financial arrangements, e.g., col. 8 lines 5-20).

As to claim 11, this is a combination of claims 1 and 2. Note the rejections of claims 1 and 2 above.

As to claim 12, Berger teaches the electronic commerce engine (e.g., col. 8 lines 30-45), and Berger shows the financial transaction and billing information can be transferred online between the distributor and the user (e.g., col. 5 lines 18-21, and col. 8 lines 10-19). It would have been inherent that financial transaction completed online (electronically) would have included accepting a payment from the user in a form selected from the group consisting of a credit card, a debit card, a gift card, and a redemption of loyalty point.

As to claim 13, Berger teaches Component Customization and Personalization System (CCPS), comprising:

a central site comprising an interface to the Internet, said central site further comprising a set of predetermined images and an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction with the user;

a user station coupled to said central site through the Internet, said user station comprising:

(a) a user interface for enabling a user to access a graphics program for defining a designed image to decorate at least one component of a mobile station, the graphics

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program implementing graphics tools for enabling a modification of said predetermined images, and for further enabling the creation of new images (graphical images stored in the database can be customized/designed by using the editing graphic design software such as PhotoShop, e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8); and

(b) a manufacturing subsystem for receiving data descriptive of said desired image, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at least one three-dimensional component of said mobile station (while applicant has defined, on page 6 of the specification, a mobile station “may be a personal computer, a wireless telephone, a cellular telephone, a pager, or any type of communication device or other type of device having communication capabilities.” The three dimensional article which is being imprinted with an graphical or designed image is immaterial, the reference to Berger et al. clearly shows imprinting user selected images on any of a number of three dimensional articles. It would have been inherent that any three-dimensional item could have had designed graphics or designs imprinted upon them. Printing company logos or trade names on components such as T-shirt, hats, luggage, housing devices, calculator, telephones has been used for advertising for many years.) having said desired image placed on it as a decorative element (e.g., col. 7 lines 10-67, and figs. 4, 5, 7 & 9).

As to claims 26, and 50-54, Berger teaches the CCPS user station of claim 25, wherein said at least one component is a cover component of said mobile station (note the rejection of claim 13 above regarding “component” and “mobile station”).

As to claim 28, Berger teaches the CCPS user station of claim 25, wherein said user interface further enables a user to at least one of select, modify or create a graphical image for

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use with said mobile station (the user uses PhotoShop editing images, e.g., col. 2 lines 1-12, col. 6 lines 57-65, and figs. 4, 5, & 8).

As to claims 46-48, they are method claims of system claims 21-23. Note the rejections of claims 21-23 above respectively.

As to claims 29-34, and 38, they are method claims of system claims 1-6, and 10. Note the rejections of claims 1-6, and 10 above respectively.

As to claims 39-40, they are method claims of system claims 14-15. Note the rejections of claims 14-15 above respectively.

As to claim 42, they are method claims of the system claim 17. Note the rejection of claim 17 above.

As to claims 43-45, and 49, they are method claims of system claims 18-20, and 24. Note the rejections of claims 18-20, and 24 above respectively.

As to claims 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, and 65, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1 wherein, in response to the user defining as the desired image one of a modification of a predetermined image and a new image, at least one of the user station and the central site checking said desired image for content owned by another (based on the user profile the system can checked for images belong to who, e.g., col. 4 lines 6-40).

As to claims 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 55, wherein checking said desired image for content owned by another comprises providing a statement for user certification at the user interface (Logos, Trade names, e.g., col. 2 lines 25-28).

As to claims 67-70, Berger teaches the CCPS of claim 1, wherein the manufacturing subsystem is further for manufacturing, at said user station, the at least one three-dimensional

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component of said consumer product to have a user-specified functional element (see claim 1 for explanation of the housing equipment, calculator, etc.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,693 B1) view of Harris (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,306 B1).

As to claim 27, Berger does not teach that the user interface further enables a user to select, modify or create an audible signal for user with the mobile station. However, Harris clearly shows that ring commands can be sent to a mobile device via a delivery service to change ring tones of the mobile device (e.g., col. 1 lines 46-col. 2 line 5, and figs. 1-2). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have ring tones of the mobile device remotely configured by the user to provide a combination of graphics and audio advertising.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chien et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0054003 A1) teach electronic payments using credit cards, debit cards, etc. ([0008], [0030], and [0049]).

Knight (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,853 B1) teaches customized images/designs online, print the images on the product, and predetermine images (cols. 1-11, and figs. 3A-H).

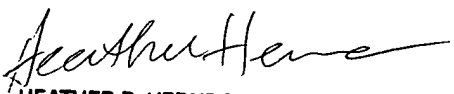
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 571-272-4134. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

04/18/04


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